

CD REVIEWS from page 14

in a vivid display of Mississippi Delta blues and the genuine feeling that it brings. Elsewhere, Palmer rolls out her boogie-woogie stride for a fun night of action, oftentimes paring her orchestra down to just piano trio with singer.

-- *Jim Santella*



CISCO *Topsy Gypsy* **Self-produced**

With a high, emotional vocal persuasion, Cisco Robles sings a program of eleven originals and one Jimi Hendrix cover on this debut album. He's worked extensively in R&B, reggae and rock music; even writing and producing rap acts. For the past five years, however, he's wandered the Southland blues circuit with just one thing on his

mind: interpreting contemporary blues/rock with his high-voltage guitar in tow. As long as he continues to color his songs with that lightning-like guitar, he'll impress everywhere he goes.

Robles' wife Chaeya sings two of the album's selections, including the Hendrix song "Ezy Rider." Down home blues gets pushed aside in places, so that he can turn his attention to blues/rock and his fiery guitar wizardry. However, the album contains several down-to-earth blues themes that sizzle. "Hotz 4U," with Chaeya on the lead vocal, "Don't Judge a Book By its Cover," "Bed Style Blues" and "The Blues Club" leave concentrated doses of authentic blues in their wake. Several other selections settle down comfortably for an honest look at blues' genuine side, while the emphasis remains with Robles' expressive guitar. The album is dedicated to the memory of a local businessman and friend who owned Topsy Gypsy, a clothing store in Huntington Beach.

-- *Jim Santella*